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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/629,608

07/30/2003

Isao Mochizuki

116628

6126

25944

7590

07/28/2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

CHOW, DOON Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,608

Applicant(s)

MOCHIZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis-Doon Chow

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo et al. (5640178) in view of Inukai (2001/0015720).

Endo discloses a portable computer such as the lap-top type comprising a pointing device for moving a cursor displayed on the display, the pointing device being arranged in a keyboard (col. 1, lines 60-63); wherein the pointing device includes a sensor substrate (51, Figs. 13-14) having first (upper) and second (lower) surfaces; a stick member including a base part (57b, Fig. 13) mounted to the first surface of the sensor substrate; and a plurality of strain sensors provided on the second surface of the sensor substrate (col. 9, lines 40-45) for detecting an operating state of the stick member, the strain sensors being provided on the sensor substrate at positions where a part of each strain sensor overlaps with a lower surface of the base part of the stick member (see Figs. 15-16). The lap-top computer inherently comprises a main unit on which the keyboard is mounted, and the display which is connected with an edge of the main unit so that the display is opened/closed with respect to the main unit.

Endo does not explicitly disclose the base part being adhered to the first surface of the sensor substrate. However Endo, in a different embodiment, discloses mounting a sensor substrate to a base by screws, locking means, or adhering means (col. 4, line 62 to col. 5, lines 3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art to use the adhering means to mount the base part (57b) to the first surface of the sensor substrate so that the mounting holes (58a, Fig. 13) can be eliminated.

Endo fails to disclose trimmable chip resistors disposed on the sensor substrate.

Inukai, in the same input field, discloses a pointing device comprising a plurality of trimmable chip resistors [0042] disposed on a sensor substrate (see Fig. 1), each trimmable chip resistor being connected in series with each strain sensor (Fig. 5).

In light of Inukai, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use Inukai's trimmable chip resistors as the resistors in Endo's processing circuit because a highly accurately adjusted low resistance value can be obtained from the trimmable chip resistors.

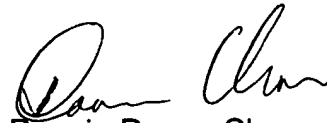
Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis-Doon Chow whose telephone number is 571-272-7767. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2629

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dennis-Doon Chow
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2629

D. Chow
March 30, 2006